

# SPOKE

## Conestoga College, Kitchener

April 1, 2002

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## ECE educators reminisce

By Kathleen Deschamps

More than 500 early childhood educators gathered at Conestoga College on March 22 to learn and reminisce about "Where it all began." That was the theme this year for the 14th annual Early Childhood Education conference.

The event is held each year for practitioners, managers, and educators of early childhood education (ECE) to learn more about their job and to be thanked for a job well done.

This year, kidsLINK/NDSA Preschool support services, the Region of Waterloo child-care division, and the child studies department of Conestoga College sponsored the conference.

The event ran March 22 and March 23. Friday night featured registration, opening remarks, an awards presentation, and a keynote address. Saturday was dedicated to 28 different workshops for educators to learn more about various aspects of ECE.

Sonia Pouyat, CEO for kidsLINK, opened the meeting on Friday evening by welcoming back all the former graduates of the early childhood education program, as well as other educators who worked in Waterloo Region. She said that the news has been mentioning lately that the ages of zero to six are a definite priority, and that all those in the room are important aspects.

John Tibbitts, president of Conestoga College, said ECE applicants to the college were up 20.7 per



Last year's winner, Sandy Barlen, left, presents the award for exceptional early childhood educator to Colleen Schramm, who was described as an innovative leader. (Photo by Kathleen Deschamps)

cent this year compared to last year.

"There's no question this is an important field," he said. "There's also no question you are important people."

At the event, awards for exceptional early childhood educators were handed out to two teachers.

Last year's winner, Sandy Barlen presented the first award of the night to Colleen Schramm. Parents and teachers described Schramm as an innovative leader, and an excellent team member. Parents said they liked her disposition and genuine concern shown towards all children.

Schramm said upon receiving the

award that she was both honoured and humbled. "Everyone I have had the pleasure of working with has taught me a great deal," Schramm said.

The second award of the evening was presented to Lori Clayfield, who graduated from Conestoga's ECE program in 1991. Last year's winner for the ECE educator award, Charmaine Sheenan, presented the award to Clayfield, and had many nice things to say.

"Laurie has a very nurturing and calming style," Sheenan said. "She is aware of children's individual needs."

Conestoga College's ECE co-ordi-

nator Berdina Hamilton Arbitage presented the last award of the night to an outstanding co-op teacher. This is a teacher who has a current Conestoga College student doing a co-op placement at their workplace.

The winner, for a second time that night, was Colleen Schramm, who works at the Waterloo Lab School.

"I guess it's my night tonight," Schramm said. "I'll be signing autographs later."

The main event for Friday night was the keynote address by Paul Huschilt.

Huschilt has a master of arts management degree from Carnegie Mellon University, a bachelor of fine arts degree, a diploma in career counselling, and a certificate in adult education.

Huschilt started his humorous speech by telling the audience about Mike Harris's last day in office. "Did you guys know that today was Mike's last day of work?" The audience roared with cheer and applause. Huschilt then sang a song for everyone about ECE (It's your quest to get toddlers to rest.)

Throughout the hour-long performance that he referred to as a "low-budget" spa, Huschilt kept the audience laughing by getting them to relax and enjoy their night away from children. He said that adults only laugh 14 times a day, compared to children laughing more than 100 times a day.

Each and every person felt special at the end of the performance, and was ready to tackle a full Saturday of seminars.

## Solar car team needs students

By Nicole Childs

Have you ever wondered what it would feel like to have the wind in your hair, an engine roaring beneath you and a ride in a car powered by the sun? Members of Conestoga College's solar car team are hoping for just that experience.

Conestoga College is calling all students in the hope of having a solar car team compete in the 2003 American Solar Challenge. The competition is a biennial cross-country solar car race open to competitors from around the world. Conestoga College would be the first Canadian college to compete in the race.

Jeremy Binkle, manager of the project, says he thinks it is important for Conestoga to be a part of this. "I believe this is a great learning experience for the students. This project will be challenging, and I believe the students from Conestoga are up to

the challenge. Conestoga College has been rated number 1 and I think we should show people why," he said.

Binkle and Jason Blamire are both running the project and hoping to have a team in place before presenting their proposal to the college. They need college approval before they can really get started.

They had about 13 people at the first information meeting on March 20 and several more at the second one the following day. They are still hoping for as many volunteers as they can get from every area of the college. "At the moment, the majority of people who have joined the team are mechanical students, which is great for the design teams, but we also need people to keep track of money and do fundraising," said Binkle. They will need people to drive, build and help with upkeep.

He also stressed that just because

someone comes from one area doesn't mean they can't help out in another. He said he's had some robotics students offer to do fundraising and public relations.

This is not the first time the college has attempted to put a solar car team together. In 1995 a group aimed to enter the competition by 1997 but failed. Some remnants of the old car are left and may be used in the new one. The team hopes to acquire other materials needed through donations from local industries.

If approved the team just hopes to get to the race and cross the finish line; they aren't trying to win yet. Another meeting will be held April 3 and they hope to have a rough copy of the proposal for the college ready by the meeting. For more information you can contact Jeremy Binkle at 00923983@conestogac.on.ca or Jason Blamire at Jason\_blamire@hotmail.com.

## College gets degree status

Conestoga College has been awarded degree-granting status.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities announced on March 27 that Conestoga is one of nine colleges granted the right to proceed with pilot-project programs.

Conestoga plans to offer a Bachelor of Applied Technology (Integrated Telecommunication and Computer Technologies) and a Bachelor of Applied Technology (Integrated Advanced Manufacturing Technologies).

The first program will teach students to manage modern complex telecommunication and electronic processes and the second one will teach students to manage processes from initial product and process design to integrating multiple production systems. For full coverage see the April 8 edition of Spoke.



## News

# Controversy continues over blood alcohol levels

By Mary Simmons

A new report has found that Canada's blood alcohol laws are stricter than most countries.

The Canada Safety Council (CSC) has released a report comparing Canada's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) laws to those in 77 jurisdictions across 20 developed countries.

Canada's Blood Alcohol Laws – An International Perspective reveals that Canada's sanctions are among the strictest in the world.

Prof. David Paciocco, who teaches law at the University of Ottawa, wrote the report and found that the approach to BAC laws internationally is complex and varied.

He questions the validity of groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) who are

pushing for the legal limit to be changed from 0.08 to 0.05, based on arguments pointing to foreign legislation.

He says that while many countries do have 0.05 as their legal limit, they do not enforce it as a criminal matter, so the penalties do not give the person a criminal record, as it does in Canada.

In response to the report, MADD says that lowering BAC levels will save lives and make the roads safer for everyone.

Andrew Murie, MADD Canada's national executive director, says in a press release that the report misses the fundamental point.

"We might have the toughest laws on the books, but our courts seldom use the penalties. When was the last time you heard a maximum sentence handed out

for impaired driving causing death, or a maximum sentence being given to a repeat offender? It doesn't happen in our country."

CSC agrees that enforcement is the key to fighting drunk driving, but lower levels won't help.

In an article found on their Web site, [www.safety-council.org](http://www.safety-council.org), it states that most impaired drivers involved in accidents causing death have BACs of at least 0.15.

It says that binge drinking by younger drivers is also an increasing concern. Forty per cent of teen drivers killed in car accidents have been drinking, 75 per cent of which have BACs above the legal limit of 0.08.

To counteract the problem, the CSC advocates more roadside spot checks and visible enforcement, claiming that if people believe they will be caught, they will be less likely to offend.

## Region's recycling program goes through some changes

By Denis Langlois

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

These three words are familiar to almost everyone in the country. But now that Waterloo Region's recycling program has expanded, a lot more can go into the blue box.

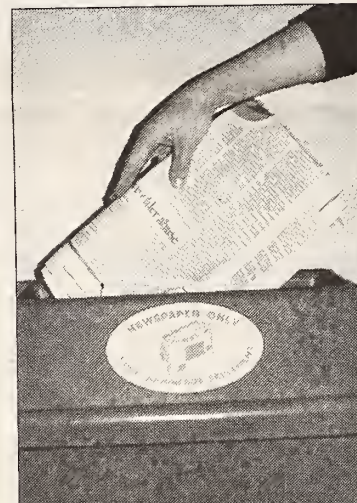
On March 4, new items were incorporated into the program to reduce the waste in landfill sites.

The new items include dry paint cans without lids, empty aerosol cans, margarine tubs, ketchup containers, hardcover books and grocery bags.

According to Susan White, supervisor of customer service at the Regional Municipality of Waterloo's Garbage Collection and Recycling Department, the expansion will greatly benefit the environment.

"It's going to divert a lot more away from the landfills," she said.

Before the expansion was implemented, many local residents requested the new products be included in the program.



Blue boxes are located throughout the school to encourage recycling.

(Photo by Denis Langlois)

Although some plastic items were already suitable for recycling, more types of plastics are now permitted.

"Plastics from three to seven can now be placed in the blue box,"

she said. "The numbers have to do with the composition of the plastics."

The sign indicating the number is usually designated on the container.

White said although it is not mandatory to recycle, everybody should.

"We may knock on your door and ask you to recycle, if we notice you aren't."

She said Kitchener was the first Canadian city to implement the blue box program so most people participate.

"It is entrenched into our community."

The expansion of the program is still quite new, so White said they are unable to determine its success.

She said it is important for residents to know when to put their garbage and recycling on the curb. "Make sure it is out by 7 a.m."

For more information about the expansion of the blue box program, you can log on to [www.region.waterloo.on.ca](http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca).

## Golf season two weeks away

By Kirsten Fifield

Golfers hoping to hit the greens early better wish for a wave of warm weather to hit the area quickly.

"The way things look this year, we'll have a typical opening of between April 7 and 15," said Todd Doering, the superintendent of Doon Valley and Rockway golf clubs in Kitchener.

He said over the past couple of years the warm weather trend has been allowing the courses to open as early as the last week of March, but this year Jack Frost is lingering around.

And according to Doering, frost is the biggest inhibitor to opening courses to the public.

"When there is no frost in the soil, the surface water can drain easier," he said.

This lack of moisture allows the soil to harden and be in good condition to support traffic from

utility vehicles and individuals playing the course.

He added that consistent weather is also a factor and the temperature needs to be above 7 C during the day and not fall too far below 0 C at night, or more ground frost will be produced.

"We also look for root development on the greens to make sure they are growing healthy," Doering said. "The plant needs to be capable of growth so it can recover from damage."

So even though two weeks may seem like an eternity for those who have been polishing their clubs all winter, look on the bright side, it gives you another 14 days to save your pennies.

Green fees at Doon Valley are \$30 Monday-Friday and \$37 Saturday and Sunday.

Twilight rates are also available during the evening for \$21 on weekdays and \$24 on weekends. Golf carts are \$25 and clubs can be rented for \$12.



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# The cost of flying soaring higher

By Sarah McGoldrick

In the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, a new wave of security features has been added to local and international airports.

The result of these new precautions has been an increase in the price of flying.

Effective April 1, new surcharges will be added to the price of a one-way and return trip ticket. The cost is an additional \$12 one-way and \$24 per return trip according to Travel Cuts, a discount travel agency.

The new security measures have been implemented by the Canadian government and are called an Air Travellers Security Charge.

These new prices also apply to destinations outside of Canada. To travel to the U.S. or other parts of the world will be an additional \$24 one-way and \$48 return. Similar increases have occurred at airports around the world in an effort to step

up airport security.

The Canadian surcharges have come under fire from members of the Opposition Party and the travel industry.

Members have said the new changes will cause a period of chaos in the travel industry and warn of a four to five per cent increase in the cost of air travel.

Transportation Canada is working to inform the public through brochures and ad campaigns. All rules and regulations on air travel are made through this body of the federal government.

They have offered the public a list of suggestions on how to make travelling easier.

■ Ensure there are no sharp objects like scissors in your carry-on bag. Pack them in your checked luggage instead.

■ Make sure electronic devices such as cellphones, laptop computers and portable or electronic games are charged and ready to be turned on for inspection.

You will not be allowed to take them on board unless they are functioning.

■ Pack prescription medication in its original labelled container. Syringes or needles for personal medical use must have the needle guard in place and also be accompanied by the medication in its original labelled container.

■ Never wrap or package gifts. Security personnel may need to inspect them.

■ Pack carefully. Be aware that any substances capable of posing risks to health, safety, property or the environment when transported, such as cleaning solvents, aerosols or other common items, are not permitted on board an aircraft.

■ Pack your own bags; never let someone else do

it.

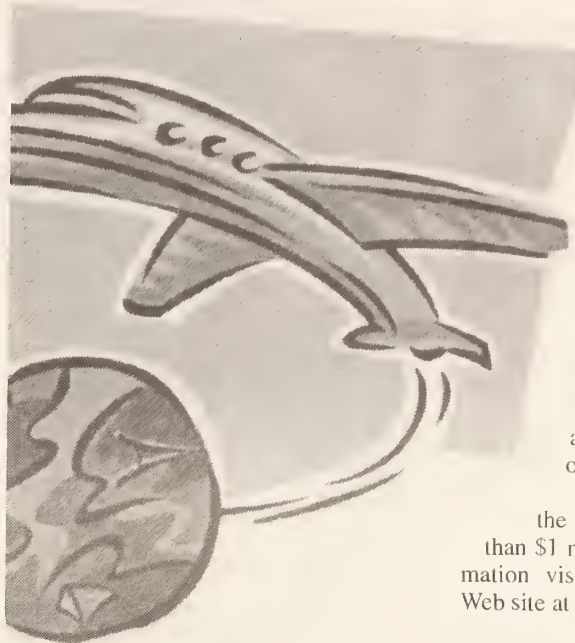
Transport Canada also warns passengers not to bring

any knives or sharp objects onto planes. However they reserve the right to deem any item inappropriate for air travel.

Transport Canada has evaluated its position on airport security and has outlined changes it plans to make.

These include creating tighter airport security and enhancing screening at airports. They also plan on installing explosive detection systems at all airports and screen 99 per cent of passengers.

The cost of making all the changes will cost more than \$1 million. For more information visit Transport Canada's Web site at [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca).



## Maple Syrup festival draws thousands

By Michelle Goring

On April 6, the town of Elmira will be busy serving hundreds of gallons of maple syrup during the much-anticipated Maple Syrup Festival.

Beginning in 1965, organizers of the event estimated 2,500 people would attend to taste the town's sweet maple syrup and freshly made pancakes. Surprisingly, 10,000 people from across Ontario attended which guaranteed the return of the festival for years to come.

With the size of the crowds increasing over the years (the 2000 festival saw crowds of more than 80,000 people) the number of attractions has also grown. The festival boasts serving approximately 15,000 pancakes using 800 kilograms of pancake mix and 725 litres of maple syrup each year.

The original outside mall that



(Internet photo)

included 14 booths now includes the products of more than 100 vendors.

Also an attraction at the festival

are the booths lined up and down the Elmira streets with vendors selling everything from crafts to delicious fresh baked goods.

Activities include a countryside heritage tour that takes guests on a guided one-and-a-half-hour tour that includes Old Order Mennonite Meetinghouse farms, a buggy bridge that was built by local Mennonite farmers, a one-room school house and the "Kissing Bridge" which is the last covered bridge in Ontario, built in 1881.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to tour the local sugar bush to learn about the tapping of maple syrup and take a tour of the sugar shack where the maple syrup is produced.

A heritage tent will be set up in Gore Park to inform visitors about the history of maple syrup and a pancake-flipping contest will take

place at Carriage Hall where teams will attempt to flip pancakes during a relay. Beside the flipping contest will be the toy show and sale that will include the festival's new beanbag baby horse "pancake" as well as an antiques and collectibles show and sale.

The Megamutts dog show will include trained dogs demonstrating precision routine drills, tricks and examples of obedience and agility.

The 2001 festival will also host the fourth annual quilt block challenge.

This year's theme is The Four Elements (earth, wind, fire and water) with prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 to be awarded by Viewer's Choice on the day of the festival.

Since the festival began it has raised more than \$900,000 for local charities and non-profit organizations.

The festival opens at 7 a.m. For more information contact Reichard's at 669-3307 or check out the Web site at [www.elmiramaplesyrup.com](http://www.elmiramaplesyrup.com).

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#### SWAP YOUR SWAG.

The Waterloo Cycling Club invites you to *buy-sell-trade-schwap* your bikes, parts, accessories. Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm, Bingeman Park, Kitchener.  
Entrance: \$2 buyers, \$5 sellers. Door prizes. Retailers.

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These positions pay \$10.25 per hour. Please submit resume to:

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### COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: *Grief*

**You can't stop crying. You feel angry. You feel numb. These feelings are all normal reactions to loss in our lives - a reaction we call grief. Grief does not only have to be a result of losing a loved one to death. We grieve any kind of loss: the breakup of a relationship, the loss of good health or even the loss of a dream to reach a certain goal. Although these feelings are natural, it sometimes helps to talk them over with a counsellor as part of the healing process. Writing your thoughts in a journal, reading books about grief, and talking to friends can also help. Most of all, give yourself permission to grieve. Feelings left bottled up will only come out later, delaying the healing process.**

**If you have a friend who is grieving, don't worry about saying the wrong thing to them. Just be there, be a good listener or remind them how much you care with a card, a hug or some time together.**

*A Message from Student Services (Room 2B02)*



## A long road ahead for Ernie Eves

The dust has finally settled and the affairs of the province can resume in full swing.

After five months of campaigning, the provincial Progressive Conservatives have elected Ernie Eves to follow Mike Harris as the new premier of Ontario.

Eves has a long road ahead of him.

Already facing an Ontario Public Service Employees Union strike, Eves must also repair the relationships with educators, schools, health-care practitioners and just about everyone not attached to the private sector.

Eves also has to deal with internal party issues after an election.

But how Eves deals with these seemingly monumental tasks will directly influence whether or not the provincial Tories can win a third majority election.

An election may be a year or two away, but governance must happen now in order for Ontario to remain a strong province in Canada and across the globe.

For all this to happen though, Eves must transcend typical Tory policies. Governing a province is not about the bottom-line.

As Mike Harris's right-hand man during the Common Sense Revolution, Eves, in his portfolio as finance minister, oversaw budgetary slashes that cut billions of dollars from health care, education and the social services.

Admittedly, taking over for the provincial New Democrats and their reckless spending that plunged Ontario deep into debt forced these cuts, but too often they went too far.

Doctors left the province en masse during this period as they were limited in earning potential, thus creating a doctor shortage in Ontario.

Tuition for post-secondary education has steadily increased despite decreased funding. Elementary and secondary schools are being asked to do more with decreasing resources.

Welfare numbers were reduced but the regulations behind accessing social assistance were tightened to make it hard to access funds.

The public service is distrustful of the legislators because of cuts and outsourcing.

This is the legacy of Ernie Eves the Finance Minister and it is an ugly one.

But as Ernie Eves the premier, things have to change.

Governing Ontario can no longer be about partisan politics or looking at things as line items on a budget.

Eves must increase spending on health care, education and the social services while staying true to his party's policies. The Common Sense Revolution is over and cannot be allowed to continue on lest it spawn other insane ideas like Jim Flaherty's wanting to jail the homeless.

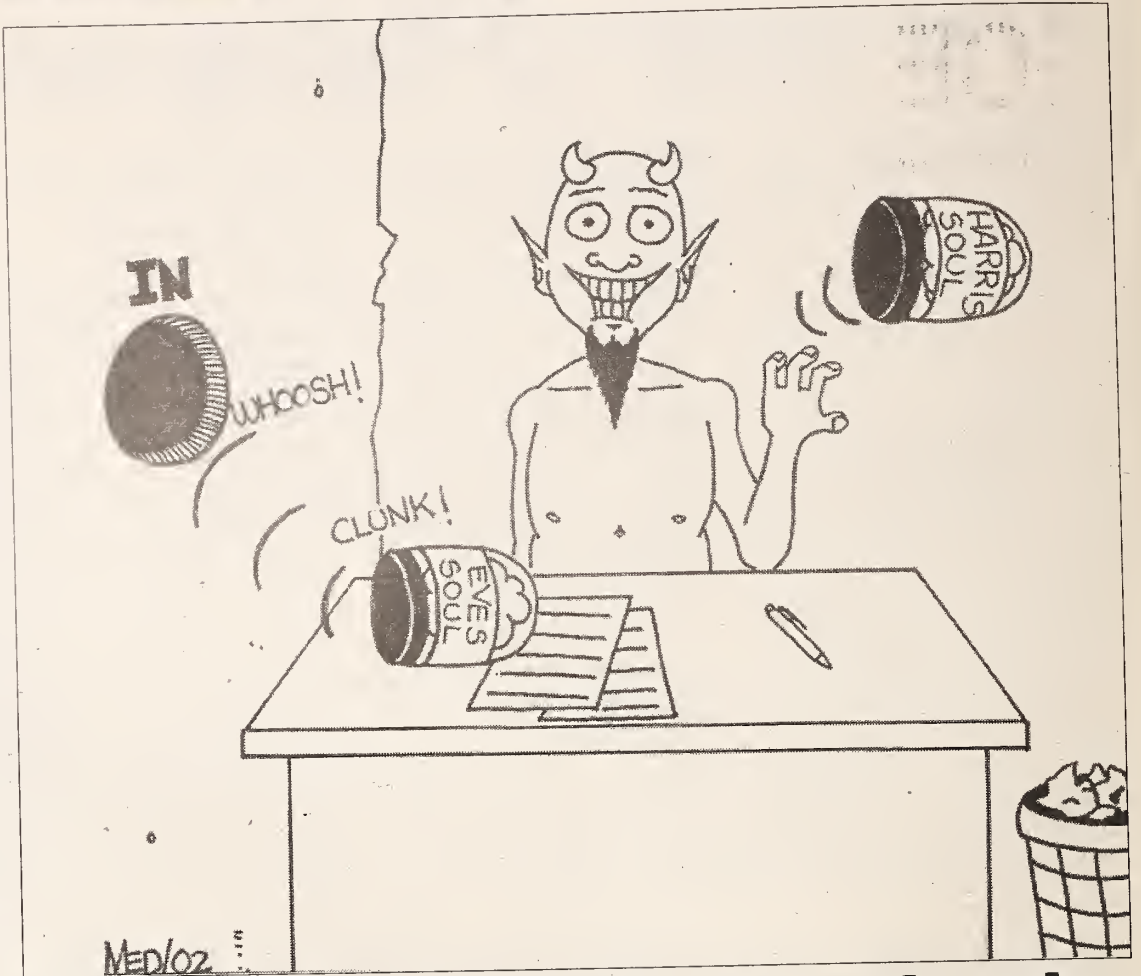
Eves must move past the partisanship of politics and work with the public sector.

Governing Ontario must be about building coalitions with the public and private sectors, responsible spending of tax dollars and it must be done with compassion and concern for the people of Ontario.

The provincial New Democrats are ill-equipped to govern Ontario as was evidenced by the early 1990s. The provincial Liberals, under the leadership of Dalton McGuinty, are a weak alternative to the New Democrats as they seem content to criticize the Tories and do nothing else.

By moving past everything and putting the best interests of Ontarians at the front of every decision, Eves and the Tories will get another majority government.

But before anyone gets re-elected, things in Ontario need to change and Ernie Eves needs to be the man leading that change.



## Athletes need standards

### Ban from campus pubs not nearly enough

Like it or not, student athletes are the most visible representatives of any school and need to act accordingly.

I applaud Judy McCrae, the University of Waterloo's athletic director, for banning the football team from all campus pubs for their ridiculous behaviour.

On March 7, members of the football team started a scuffle at Federation Hall where Waterloo regional police had to be called in.

A few days later at the Bombshelter Pub, Waterloo's other campus bar, the police were called again to break up a bunch of football players acting like children.

This behaviour is disgusting and should not be tolerated. I'm glad the university has not tolerated this behaviour.

I have no problems with students drinking. It's part of campus life.

Even the occasional moment of drinking to excess is part and parcel of that lifestyle.

But at the same time, student leaders, and that includes student athletes, need to hold themselves to a higher standard when in public than the average student.



Jody Andruszkiewicz

It's an unfortunate reality and sometimes it's not fair to the student leader but it's a reality.

As a student leader at Conestoga, I can't be acting like a jackass when I'm in public because my actions reflect poorly on the school.

**Being a student leader or student athlete is a privilege. Not everyone on campus is qualified or has the desire to put in the extra hours on top of their schooling and part-time jobs.**

I may not like that, but I made the choice to get involved as a student leader.

These players made the same choice to become student leaders in their own right.

Nobody put a gun to their head

and told them to be a student athlete. They can walk away at any time.

However, banning the football team from the campus bars doesn't solve the problem. It's an interim solution.

These players should be kicked off the football team.

If they want to get back on the team, they should have to do some community service as well as apply to the athletic department.

If a player on any Conestoga team acted the same as the Warrior football players did, I would advocate they be kicked off their team.

Being a student leader or a student athlete is a privilege. Not everyone on campus is qualified or has the desire to put in the extra hours on top of their schooling and part-time jobs.

It takes a special person to get involved so heavily because the school trusts those leaders with its reputation.

But when a student leader or athlete behaves in such a negative way, they lose the trust of the school.

And they should lose their privileges as well.

SPOKE is mainly funded from September to May by a payment from Conestoga Students Inc. (CSI) in exchange for the insertion of advertising in the paper. The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of Conestoga College or the CSI. Advertisers in SPOKE are not endorsed by the CSI unless their advertisements contain the CSI logo. SPOKE shall not be liable for any damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space. Unsolicited submissions must be sent to the editor by 9:30 a.m. Monday. Submissions are subject to acceptance or rejection and should be clearly written or typed; a MS Word file would be helpful. Submissions must not contain any libelous statements and may be accompanied by an illustration (such as a photograph).

# SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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# ECE program promotes healthy babies

By Kathleen Deschamps

I wasn't always a journalism student.

Before I walked into the halls of Conestoga College to study the fine art of writing, I was in ECE. For those of you who don't know, that is Early Childhood Education.

I love children but I also love to be creative and write. I finally decided to take journalism, but my love for children has never wavered. I still get excited when I get the chance to learn something about my former passion.

As part of the Early Childhood Education Conference held March 22 and 23, seminars took place all day Saturday.

I took it upon myself to sit in on one of the seminars, hoping to learn something about children.

The seminar began at 9 a.m. and although my warm bed seemed a heavenly place, I was exited about the subject matter I chose.

The topic was Healthy Babies, Healthy Children. The Waterloo Region Community Health Department, Family and

Community Resources Division and the Family Health program put it on.

Healthy Babies, Healthy Children (HBHC) simply put, insures that all families in Ontario have proper pre-natal and postnatal care. The speakers, Celina Sousa and Susan Delisle Smith, spoke candidly about babies and how they need special attention and should be screened as early as 48 hours after birth.

All of the 22 participants in the seminar were early childhood educators or mothers. Some had the pregnant bellies to prove it. I myself was neither. I had no idea that a newborn should not sleep more than three hours at a time. I couldn't even guess what colour their first poop should be.

I learned that everyone in Ontario has had the right to the pre- and postnatal screening process since 1997. A parent also has the right to turn the program down.

As part of the plan, a registered nurse will call the new mother to make sure she and the child are coping OK a few days after the



Celina Sousa and Susan Delisle Smith hold up pamphlets entitled Healthy Babies, Healthy Children that promote pre- and postnatal care for mothers.

(Photo by Kathleen Deschamps)

birth. The nurse will also offer a home visit. There is a support system for the parents until the child is six years of age. This means that they can call HBHC any time they have questions or problems.

It is HBHC's goal to see improved child health and development, as well as increased parenting confidence and knowledge.

They stressed that all families should have access to early inter-

vention services, because the learning process begins at birth.

I also learned that babies are now screened from birth for developmental problems.

The Nipissing District Developmental Screen began in 1993, and tests babies on their skills with yes/no questions. For example, I learned that an 18-month-old child should be able to identify pictures in a book, point to at least three different body parts, and walk alone. If the child cannot do something on a list, the parents are asked to phone their physician. The objective is to promote early identification in children.

I was unaware of all the testing kids go through. It is wonderful that people are noticing babies for the people they really are.

I learned a lot in my two hours at the seminar. I know now that anyone who is in need of information can contact the HBHC info line at 519 883-2245.

Thanks to the seminar, when I am ready for children, I will be just a little more knowledgeable about what to do.



It doesn't happen often, but when a bank machine takes your bank card it is usually a defect in the machine. Your local banking branch can assist you if your card is eaten.

(Photo by Nicole Childs)

## Don't panic when hungry bank machine eats your card

By Nicole Childs

Picture this. You are standing in line at Tim Hortons when you realize you haven't got enough cash for what you want. You decide to run to the bank machine and exchange one line for another. The person in front of you sticks his banking card into the machine and receives his money without a problem.

You put your card into the machine and receive no response. Bewildered you begin pressing button after button to try to get your money, but instead of getting it, you lose your card. You have just joined millions who have experienced this horrible and often humiliating experience.

The bank machine has eaten your card, so now what do you do? Well, like many you'll probably rant and rave, yell various four-letter words at the machine and try to get help

from whoever is around. I've even seen people stick tweezers into the tiny opening of the machine in an attempt to retrieve their card. Trust me, it doesn't work.

The only thing you can do is call the toll-free number on the machine or call your own bank branch for a temporary replacement card.

According to Rosemarie, a Royal Bank client services representative, who cannot give her last name due to bank policy, banks follow a specific procedure when a bank machine eats a client card. If it happens during branch hours, clients can come into the branch and get a temporary card. But if the card is captured while the branch is closed you will have to wait until the next working day or call the 24-hour toll-free number on the bank machine.

"It doesn't happen often but when it does happen it is usually a

defect in the machine," she said. As soon as the bank is notified there is a problem, a machine repairperson is sent out to assess the situation and solve the problem.

Cards that are eaten by a bank machine are taken back to the bank branch. From there, clients are called and can come into the branch to retrieve their cards or have them mailed to them.

In some cases the problem can be with the card.

The machine can't read it, or in my case when my Canada Trust account changed over to TD Canada Trust, it ate my old client card because they were issuing new cards. I received a new card within two weeks.

If you face this experience of having your card eaten by a bank machine, don't fret and rant and rave since it won't do you any good anyways, just call your main branch or the number on the bank machine

## See the country while getting paid

By Sarah McGoldrick

Imagine waking up on a different side of the country with a group of strangers and getting money to be there. Katimavik is a student organization that places people all across Canada giving them work experience.

Sen. Jacques Herbert founded Katimavik in 1977 after he saw that many students knew little about Canada and were just leaving high school and getting jobs.

Communications Director Emilie Lavictore says Katimavik is a great way to meet people and get practical work experience.

"It presents a lot of social challenges," she said.

Anyone can apply to participate in Katimavik and selection is random.

Lavictore said participants can expect a full day. Residence is shared with 10 other people and a project leader. Homes for participants are rented all over Canada.

Jobs are sponsored by local non-profit organizations and participants can work together or as individuals. Jobs may include working at a museum, recreational park or government office.

The experience isn't all work and no play. At the end of the day participants are free to tour

the city or town they are staying in and get to know the culture.

"It gives the chance for students to get some adult responsibility," Lavictore said.

The program is funded by Exchanges Canada that pays for all travel arrangements and daily living expenses.

Students receive \$21 a week in spending money and a \$1,000 honorarium is given to each participant at the end of the work term.

Since 1977, 21,000 people have participated in Katimavik. However, in 1986 the entering Conservative Party cancelled the program. In 1995 it was resurrected on a smaller scale.

An average of 3,000 to 6,000 people apply to Katimavik and 1,000 are chosen.

This year marks the 25th anniversary and celebrations are planned all across Canada.

"In November celebrations will be held in Ottawa and an alumni association has been set up at the national office," Lavictore said.

Not only is Katimavik looking for participants, they are also looking for project leaders. This nine-month commitment pays \$475 to \$490 a week and all expenses are taken care of.

For further information visit their Web site at [www.katimavik.org](http://www.katimavik.org).

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## Blind man wants you to look again

By Mary Simmons

You may have seen Carey Ruby walking the halls of Conestoga College. You'd probably remember him. He's the one with the beautiful black guide dog.

Ruby was born with hydrocephalus, or water on the brain, which eventually damaged his optic nerve and left him visually impaired at the age of 21. That was in 1986 and he has come a long way since then.

An intelligent, enthusiastic man, Ruby has lots of plans for the future.

For one thing, Ruby makes wooden toys, a talent that he hopes one day to turn into a business, although at the moment he is trying to find facilities to work in. His former workshop burned down in 1995.

He would like to use his passion and ability to help others think more creatively.

"Sometimes when people think they're up against a wall and they can't move, they can." He first became aware that he wanted to use his own creativity to help others when speaking at a day camp in 1996.

He recalls one particular little girl

who took an instant liking to him.

"The whole time I talked, she was right there beside me, and when I went to leave she gave me a huge hug."

He realized in that moment that this little girl lacked affection in her life and it made him want to help others and make a difference in their lives.

He enjoys public speaking and you will often find him at schools and scout groups with his guide dog, Argus, talking about his visual impairment and the guide dog program.

He speaks fondly of Argus, calling him his baby and occasionally reaching over to give him an affectionate pet.

He says people will often come up to him and start talking because of Argus, who has proved to be a social icebreaker since he came into Ruby's life in 1998.

He doesn't mind people coming up to him, but he does want people to be aware that they should not pet Argus when he is in his harness, since he can become distracted and Ruby can be hurt as a consequence.

He refers to it as being similar to a driving situation. Argus is the driver in their car and if he gets distracted, an accident can happen.

"I've bumped into a few walls because of this," Ruby said.

His advice to people moving into a new neighbourhood is to get a dog.

"There's something about dogs that help people connect to people."

But Argus can also be a social barrier because Ruby has to look after his needs, like a parent would for a child.

At school, when others use their breaks to socialize and go for a coffee, Ruby is outside letting Argus do his business.

He realizes that many people have their own preconceived notions about what it means to be blind and his message for them is to look again.

"Be slow to speak and quick to listen," he says. "Ask and don't build assumptions. Look at the person, not the blindness."

Another plan Ruby has in the works is to expand on his writing ability and develop his thoughts into a book, essay or group of speeches.

He is currently looking for a mentor to assist him with his grammar and structure, basically someone who would go over his written material and edit it for him.



Carey Ruby with his guide dog, Argus, who helps lead him through life.  
(Photo by Mary Simmons)

## Inline skating fun and great exercise

By Kirsten Fifield

Spring has finally arrived and with it comes the desire to find activities that can be enjoyed outdoors.

But most of us are looking for something a little more fun than jogging around the block.

Well search no further, inline skating can be a great alternative and you don't have to be a star athlete or invest a lot of money to participate.

Mark Skanes, a sales associate at Sportco in Kitchener, said beginners can enjoy inline skating for under \$120, including tax.

"If you're just starting out it's probably not worthwhile to purchase high-end equipment," he said, adding inline hockey skates can cost up to \$300.

"They'll all roll, they'll all fit your feet," he laughed.

Skanes said the more expensive skates will be a little more comfortable and have better quality wheels.

They will also have a higher ABEC, which means the wheels will roll smoother and faster.

ABECs, or bearings, run from level 1-7, but he said most people can't skate fast enough to keep up with a level 7.

"Beginners really don't have to be concerned with

the finer points," he added.

According to Skanes a decent pair of skates can be purchased for \$69.99.

These will have a molded plastic boot, similar to that of a ski boot, and will also come equipped with a brake, a feature not included on the hockey models, which lace up like ice skates.

He also recommends beginners, even those able to skate on ice, invest in knee pads and wrist guards, which can be picked up for \$34.99.

"The ice surface is flat," said Skanes, "but outside you introduce the grain of the pavement and things like rocks, which can be unexpected."

He added wheels can be replaced on all models starting at \$30, but those planning on skating a couple of times a week for the duration of the season won't need to worry for a couple of years.

Bearings can also be replaced.

Skanes said people interested in purchasing inline skates for road hockey may want to look into a lace up boot because they do not have a brake, which may get in the way, are more comfortable and have higher quality wheels.

A beginner pair of this model can still be purchased for under \$100.

## READING: THE ART OF SKIMMING

One of the most important things students have to do is textbook reading.

For some students the amount of reading that is required in post secondary education is an overwhelming task. Whether or not you have had a lot of experience with reading, this study skill tip can offer you strategies that can help you improve your reading skills.

If you were to read everything required or suggested by every instructor in every course, you would spend all of your waking hours reading. You can't possibly read it all. If you try, you won't be able to keep up with anything else. If you skip material entirely, you may miss relevant information to be tested on. The solution is skimming.

**Skimming means selective reading. Reading what is important and deliberately ignoring what isn't.**

### HOW TO SKIM

**Textbooks are written for information. Novels are written for pleasure. Attack a textbook with an action plan.**

- Read the table of contents and index.
- Locate the information you need.  
(These first two steps are important when you are using many sources of information for researching term papers, essays, etc and are not necessary when doing assigned reading.)
- Read the introduction.
- Read the summary.
- Read the subheadings.
- The first paragraph under each subheading contains the most relevant information as do the last few sentences of the paragraph, note those.
- Read the first and last lines of each paragraph.
- Make point form summary notes.

Stop skimming when you have a roadmap of the information or when you have found the material you need to read.

For more information on this technique and other learning and study strategies, contact **Student Services, 2B02**, for an appointment.

STUDENT SERVICES 2B02



# Resources help job seekers

By Denis Langlois

With the school year drawing to a close, many students are beginning to type up their resumes and distribute them to prospective employers in hopes of finding the perfect summer job.

And because many high school and university students are doing the same thing, it is important to ensure your resume stands out.

Fortunately, there are many services and agencies available to students to assist them in finding the job they've always wanted. Many of these places also help students write an effective cover letter, assemble a workable portfolio and create a resume that will catch an employer's eye.

Some of the services available to job seekers are located on the Internet, while others are just around the corner.

But knowing which service is best is still up for debate and it is usually a personal preference.

## Monster.ca

One of the most popular job posting sites on the Internet is Monster.ca.

Based out of Montreal, Que., this site is entirely Canadian with many job opportunities located within the country. However, there is also an international section for those who prefer jobs in other areas.

The site was officially launched in January 1997 and is affiliated with other Monster sites in 20 countries around the world.

While on the site, job seekers can search for jobs, post resumes, participate in mock interviews, take self-assessment quizzes and contribute to a forum to discuss issues with other users.

Employers will also find this site useful. There are links to help them hire a student, post jobs and review resumes.

According to Cathy Hoffman, Monster's public relations officer, Monster.ca is one of the most effective tools available to help students get jobs.

"Our site gets more than two million visits per month," she said. "We have one million resumes in our database."

But the number of people that actually get jobs related to their field was recently disputed in a National Post article on March 9. The article, entitled *Misadventures with a Monster*, stated that CareerXroads, a research company, conducted a survey that found that Monster.ca only contributed to 1.4 per cent of the total hires for the year.

However, Hoffman said this statistic is incorrect.

"The same day that article came out, the Montreal Gazette published an article that said the opposite."

She said another survey, conducted by Cogem Research Company, found that 27 per cent of Monster's job seekers actually find jobs.

Also, Hoffman said employers continue posting jobs on the site to look for new employees, which is another indication that the site is effective.

"We have a high renewal rate amongst employers," she said. "Because they come back so frequently, it is a good sign of Monster's success."

And the reason for their success, according to Hoffman, is because they are the biggest and best in Canada.

"We have more than 25,000 jobs posted on our site, which is the most in the country."

She said the site is easier to navigate, understand and utilize than other sites.

And it has a varied selection of job postings as well.

"We have something for everybody in every region of the country," she said.

Besides the obvious features included on most employment Web sites, Monster.ca also offers a confidentiality feature so job seekers can keep their identity secret.

"If people want to keep their names hidden from their current employer, they are able to do that on Monster."

"Some people worry if they are recognized by their boss, they may get in trouble," she said.

Monster.ca also launched a new feature last June, called *Monstertrak.ca*, which primarily caters to students.

"This site has entry-level and summer employment postings," she said.

## CareerBuilder.com and HeadHunter.net

Another popular job posting site on the Internet is CareerBuilder.com. And although this site is an American-based company, job seekers can still view many Canadian listings.

Last year, CareerBuilder.com acquired HeadHunter.net and together they are one of the most popular sites on the Internet.

Both sites offer services to improve a resume, master an interview and view thousands of job listings from all over the continent.

According to Barry Lawrence, a spokesperson for both companies, people should log on to either CareerBuilder or HeadHunter to receive the best services on the Net.

"We are associated with many major newspapers in the United States as well," he said. "So we are in the places where the jobs are."

The March 9 National Post article also reported on these companies. It stated that together they only contributed to 0.56 per cent of the overall hires for the year, according to the CareerXroads survey.

But Lawrence said these statistics are inaccurate.

"People were asked in another survey where they go to find job listings," he said.

"The No. 1 answer was classified ads at 80 per cent and the second was newspaper Web sites at 61 per cent, while national career sites were third at 53 per cent."

"We can be included in the first three [categories], because of our affiliation with the Chicago Tribune and other newspapers."

He said the popularity of Internet job posting sites has increased significantly over the last few years.

"It is idiotic to ignore the places that people go to find jobs," he said. "To minimize the influence of a job site is ludicrous."

In fact, Lawrence said both sites

provide many features that are beneficial to both job seekers and employers alike.

"We give feedback on resumes and we evaluate how many times employers see the Web site."

He said job seekers could choose to receive e-mail responses on a weekly or daily basis, depending on their personal preference.

The responses outline how many employers have looked at the person's resume.

## Kitchener-Waterloo Career Connections

Besides visiting the many job posting sites on the Internet, career seekers can also visit a local employment agency to view listings or receive other services.

Kitchener-Waterloo Career Connections, located at 165 King St. E. in Kitchener, is one of the many local organizations available to assist prospective employees.

It offers services to improve resumes, sharpen skills and create cover letters, to name a few.

According to Lil Premsukh Singh, co-ordinator of the agency, it is a good idea to visit a company specializing in employment strategies, even if an Internet site has already been used.

"At our office we deal with people on a face-to-face basis, where they can better express themselves," she said.

And if a job seeker is questioning whether an employment agency is more beneficial than an Internet site, she said it is up to the individual's personal preference.

But if skills need to be sharpened or improved, she said Career Connections may be the perfect place to visit.

"There are employment advisers here and they will discuss every aspect. We can analyze a resume and enhance one area or identify other areas they may not have thought to recognize," she said.

And what sets their agency apart from others in the area is their specialization in student employment and recruiting.

She said their company helps employers fill student positions, in either full- or part-time roles.

"Our reputation sometimes precedes us," she said. "Through word of mouth or past customers, we get many job postings."

When hiring students for various positions, she said there are some skills employers look for when choosing their new employee.

These include having a positive attitude, a positive outlook on life, a flexible schedule, and a willingness to change.

This May, Kitchener-Waterloo Career Connections is hosting their annual summer jobs program, which is designed to assist student in finding summer employment.

"During this program, we will help students utilize our job postings and we will help them look through our job bank as well," she said.

## Conestoga College's Student Employment Office

And if students are looking for help with job skills or getting a summer job, they need look no further than the Student Employment Office at the Doon campus.

The office provides many



Sara Free, the student employment officer, sits in front of the many handouts available to assist students in improving their chances of getting a job.

(Photo by Denis Langlois)

resources to students, including handouts outlining how to make a resume, portfolio and cover letter. There are also rules for mastering the interview and presenting yourself to an employer.

On a table in the office there is a number of binders with job postings inside, which are related to different categories. Posters also line the walls providing numbers and e-mail addresses to point job seekers in the right direction.

According to Sara Free, the student employment officer, students should visit Web sites and the employment office when looking for a job.

"Our services are free and you can get in touch with someone to look over your resume to better market you," she said.

"It is a good idea to go to the Net when you have a better indication of where you would like to work and what your interests are."

She said it is sometimes a good idea to visit more than one employment agency as well.

"I recommend doing as much as you feel you are able to do."

And just because a help wanted ad says they are looking for full-time employment, Free said it is

still a good idea to apply.

"Follow up with your own letter because they may wish to hire someone only for the summer."

And she said many job postings can only be found through local agencies.

"A lot of jobs are hidden," she said. "Actually, only about 20 per cent of jobs are advertised."

Also, students should have an idea of where they want to work and what they are willing to do to get that perfect job.

"You have to ask yourself how far you're willing to relocate for a job," she said.

"You should ask questions and research each job you apply for."

However, some of the research is already done for students when they go to the employment office. Free said there is a list of Web sites available to the students if they want more job postings.

Some of these sites include the youth employment site ([www.youth.gc.ca](http://www.youth.gc.ca)), work information net ([www.workinfonet.ca](http://www.workinfonet.ca)) and the campus work link site ([www.campusworklink.com](http://www.campusworklink.com)).

But no matter how the job is found, Free said students should start applying now.

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# Paris: a city to remember

By Marcy Cabral

*This is the first in a four-part series on things to do and see in France.*

I used to associate Paris with the Eiffel tower, however after returning from a recent visit, the popular metallic structure is only one of the many fond memories I now have of the city of lights.

From March 8-16 a group of 18 students from Kitchener's Eastwood Collegiate high school, three Eastwood teachers and six adults travelled to the other side of the world to view the many sites of France.

"I definitely wanted to come to France," Cristina Guaglio, a Grade 11 student, said. "I mean who would want to pass up a chance like this."

Paris has many things to offer a traveller: a rich historical background, a new culture, and of course, the memories.

"I will remember the warmth of the French people," Jen Tieu, a Grade 12 student said. "They welcome you in and because of that I will never forget the fun and laughter I shared here with my friends."

The friendly atmosphere, the famous sites and the city's popularity make the city of lights a definite stop on everyone's travelling list.

When making your way through the city the Metro, the French subway system, is one of the cheapest modes of transportation throughout the city.

Buy yourself a five-day pass if you're staying that long or enough tickets to last you through your stay, but either way be sure to equip yourself with a map of the metro lines and the city at all times.

However, be advised the subway has practically no ventilation so before walking down the steps to the underground be sure to inhale what the French consider fresh air. Also, the subway is probably one of the most French experiences there is. You're surrounded by people in a hurry with places to be and then of course there is the free entertainment.

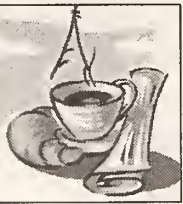
"I will always remember these guys getting on the Metro and playing the accordion," Kendra Strong, an OAC student and Student Cabinet Prime Minister, said. "And then there was another guy practising the robot dance."

The Metro has stops at all the major sites, so have a game plan and know exactly where you want to get off because it's quite easy to get turned around.

Paris is home to many museums, but perhaps the most famous is the Louvre. Located along the right bank of the Seine River, the Louvre separates the East and West sides of the city. The castle was built by King Philippe Auguste at the end of the 12th century and was the home of many royal families after him.

Throughout the years, the French royal families began collecting art pieces and displaying them only to the court. But when

Vive  
la  
France



Louis XVI came to power he had the idea to display the royal art collection to the public. Louis XVI was the last king to live in the Louvre and the castle was turned over to the state in 1848.

The castle-turned-museum is filled with statues, replicas of royal rooms, Egyptian artifacts and paintings behind every corner and winding hallway. However, one of the Louvre's most famous pieces of artwork, the Mona Lisa, was highly disappointing.

Personally, the painting was so small and hidden behind layers of glass that you couldn't even see the true artwork in the piece. Not to mention the ropes preventing you from getting too close. My favourite pieces in the museum, by far, were all the painted ceilings. There was so much detail and beauty in them that the only word I can use to describe it is, amazing.

Not only is the museum home to more than 300,000 pieces of art, the building itself is a work of art. The architecture is intricately detailed with carved pillars and beautiful statues protruding from the outer walls. Even if you are not one to appreciate art, the Louvre is a must see.

After 182 years of construction, the Notre Dame of Paris was completed in 1345 and the site of robberies, defacing and near burnings.

During the Commune of 1871 the cathedral was nearly burned to the ground by angry Communards who believed the church was filled with money, deceiving the people and should be destroyed. The Communards burnt certain sections of the church and destroyed the precious stained glass windows. Today, the cathedral is adorned with new stained glass and surrounding the inside of the church are separate little chapels dedicated to individual patrons of the Catholic faith.

I can't even begin to describe the feeling that went through my body when I entered the cathedral. I immediately felt like I was walking on sacred ground. Walking around the inside and pausing at the chapels, I couldn't help but feel serene and peaceful. The Notre Dame of Paris was everything I had expected and more.

For the best view of Paris at night, I strongly recommend climbing the 280 winding steps to the top of the Arc de Triomphe. Completed in 1836, Napoleon commissioned the Arc to commemorate his victories. Engraved along the top are the names of all the major victories from the French Revolution. Beneath the Arc lies a tomb of an unknown soldier and an eternal flame in memoriam to those who died in both World Wars.



Even the sight of Paris from the airplane is impressive and awakes curiosity in visitors to see all of its attractions.  
(Photo by Marcy Cabral)

The Arc is in the centre of 12 avenues and as you stand at the top and look out at the city, you truly understand why Paris is called the City of Lights. Paris at night is the most beautiful sight I have ever seen in my entire life. From above the city you are away from the busy streets and crowded sidewalks and all that surrounds you is this unbelievable sight waiting for you to grab hold and discover all its inner beauty. From the Arc you can see all four directions of the city and of

course the famous Eiffel Tower.

Built in 1889 for the International Exhibition of Paris, the Eiffel Tower is France's most popular landmark. Named after its creator, Gustave Eiffel, the tower is 300m high, weighs 7,000 tons and was the world's tallest structure until 1930.

Seen from half way across the city, the tower seems almost magical. Standing next to it and looking up to catch a glimpse of the very top sent goosebumps through me.

The park across from the tower was filled with children running around and couples strolling through the park on a cool, sunny spring day.

Across the street is the Eiffel carousel where eager children waited in line for their turn to ride the painted horses. Looking around and noticing these little things I couldn't help but smile. And as I made my way to the top of the Eiffel Tower and looked over the city, I knew I had finally discovered Paris.

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# Gutter Ball Alley is no strike out

By Tannis Wade

Finally Canadian television has put out a show that is actually funny. Gutter Ball Alley, in its second season on the Comedy Network, it's out to disgust, sexualize and humiliate all its contestants for a meager \$50.

Host Wade McElwain, who hails from nearby New Dundee, is the mastermind behind the show. Not only did the good-looking comedian create the show, he hosts, writes, animates and calls himself executive producer.

His partner in crime, and wacky co-host Johnny Gardhouse, explains the premise of the show. "We get people, regular crazy citizens like you and me, to come out and play weird and strange games in order to win bowling balls. In turn, they can bowl for cash and fabulous prizes."

Games this season include; Butt Vineyard, where contestants must fill up the underwear of a fat man

with enough grapes to make juice, and Prairie Oystered, which puts a new spin on bobbing for apples. This game dares contestants to bob for bull testicles in a bin filled with powdered milk. "Just watching those poor souls sinking their teeth into those things is hilarious," Gardhouse said.

Where they get these ideas is yet to be determined. Both Wade and Johnny gave comedic responses when asked where their ideas hail from. "Most of the raw game ideas are thought up here, then sent to a factory in Dearborn, Mich. for refitting and processing. Then they are sold back to us at higher markup and riddled with customs and excise taxes," said McElwain.

The hosts have obviously poured their hearts into making the show a success. "People should watch the show for many reasons. Provocative humour, scantily clad beautiful women and the fact that we are the only game show in

Canada," McElwain said. "But mostly because if they don't watch, each week we will kill a cute little puppy."

Their desire to push the envelope was obvious both in the interview and on their Web site. (www.gutterballalley.com) They swear, boast a show that offers full-frontal nudity and discuss autoerotic masturbation.

"Wade and I have over 15 years of comedy experience between us, and it shows when we hook up with each other on air. Plus we have some of the country's finest stand-ups writing for us," Gardhouse said.

The pair would love to see the show taken on the road, particularly in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. "We could watch Conestoga College humiliate both the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier. They think they're so smart," said McElwain, whose own mother works at the college.

Mary McElwain, who works in



Wade McElwain hosts the Comedy Network's new show Gutter Ball Alley.

(Internet photo)

the school of engineering and technology, watches the show with her family every week and

has only good things to say about her son and the show.

"Wade is a natural host for GBA, he's quick-witted and funny," she said. "The show is outrageous and not for the faint of heart. I can't believe what some people will do for money, but I think we all know someone who would do almost anything for \$50."

So, what would these talented hosts do for \$50? "I would probably do something crazy like watch four hours straight of the Mike Bullard Show," Gardhouse said. "OK, maybe just two," he added.

If you are interested in some good laughs and truly Canadian humour, tune into the Comedy Network Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 11:30 p.m. Or check out their Web site for more details and tickets to show tapings, hoping to start again in July. "Watch the show. We're Canadian and everyone knows we're the funniest, most twisted people on the planet," Gardhouse said.

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This site is filled with new and well-known products for sampling, contest offers, coupons and more. You can register to join the Canadianfreestuff club and receive the site's weekly newsletter, but if you're like me and hate junk mail, it might be simpler to just bookmark the site for easy access.

The home page is not exactly uncluttered, but located to the left of the page is an extremely useful category sub-list. This is especially beneficial if you know exactly what type of offer you're looking for. Some of the categories listed include magazines, contests, crafts, coupons, food and recipes, health and beauty, samples, etc.

After clicking on one of the categories you receive a list of all the new offers as well as the unexpired ones.

Underneath the listing is a brief synopsis of the stated offer and a link to the information sheet that must be filled out for each individual offer.

Now, my one real pet peeve with this site is that every time you click to enter for the offer you automatically get sent to the product's Web site. For instance, when completing an information



Marcy Cabral

sheet for a shampoo sample such as Physique, first you are sent to the Physique Web site. You must then look over the site to find their link for free samples, click and then fill out the required information.

At the bottom of most information sheets are already selected boxes, which say you are willing to receive advertisements, newsletters and special offers from the company. Also, one selected box usually asks if the company can give out your information in order for you to receive offers from affiliate companies. Personally, I always de-select these boxes.

Other things to watch out for are added costs. Some offers require a mandatory shipping and handling charge that is not mentioned until the very last screen when completing the offer.

In most cases, the shipping and handling is usually quoted in American currency so don't forget to do the math if you're still interested.

My advice for this site however, is always read the fine print at the bottom of the screen before clicking the send tab.

If you know of any interesting sites, feel free to e-mail me at abbymarcy@hotmail.com and it may appear in a future column.

By Daniel Roth

Week of April - 7

Happy Birthday Aries!

You could be in store for a short trip this week. Friends or family have planned what you are going to be doing on your birthday, so act surprised.



Aries: March 21 - April 19

If you are feeling alone or betrayed, know your friends are there for you. With all of the pressures in your life, you may not be seeing everything clearly.

Luckiest day: April 1.



Taurus: April 20 - May 20

You are going to have a great week. It will be filled with pleasant surprises. Your good mood will attract lots of friends.

Luckiest day: April 7.



Gemini: May 21 - June 21

You will be able to enjoy the rewards of all your hard work. Try to relax as much as possible this week as something exhausting might be coming up for you.

Luckiest day: April 3.



Cancer: June 22 - July 22

You will have success after a long battle. Some legal

issues could arise, so watch your speed. If you're confused about an issue, don't hesitate to ask a friend.

Luckiest day: April 6.



Leo: July 23 - August 22

An event beyond your control could leave you feeling helpless. If you find that you feel stuck on an issue ask your friends for their advice.

Luckiest day: April 2.



Virgo: August 23 - September 22

If you are feeling down and depressed, the feeling is only temporary. You will have to follow your instinct and listen to your heart to feel better.

Luckiest day: April 6.



Libra: September 23 - October 22

If everything seems to be falling apart in your life, know it is a learning experience for you. In order to feel better you'll have to forget about the past.

Luckiest day: April 1.



Scorpio: October 23 - November 21

Someone who you would consider an authority figure has some advice for you. If you listen to what they have to say your week will go by much smoother.

Luckiest day: April 2.



Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21

Conflict between friends will have you stressed out. If they ask you to choose sides, don't. If you give both people the same advice you'll be much happier.

Luckiest day: April 3.



Capricorn: December 22 - January 19

By the end of the week you will have something to celebrate. You have worked very hard to achieve your success, so enjoy it while it lasts.

Luckiest day: April 5.



Aquarius: January 20 - February 18

A sudden change will take you by surprise. Don't let the small issues get to you this week. You must concentrate on resolving the big problems.

Luckiest day: April 1.



Pisces: February 19 - March 20

You will be thinking about a problem a lot this week. Don't confuse yourself by over analysing the situation. For the best results follow your intuition.

Luckiest day: April 7.

Daniel Roth is a second-year journalism student who has studied astrology and other clairvoyant issues for four years.

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## More flicks for kids in the works

By Tannis Wade

With the growing success of children's movies, companies are making and releasing more flicks directed at kids.

Harry Potter has moved from the philosophers stone to the chamber of secrets in the sequel to the popular children's film. Kenneth Branagh, actor, writer and director, will play a self-centred new addition to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

The film version of the second novel in J.K. Rowling's best-selling Harry Potter series is called Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

The first film, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was a huge success and the sequel is expected to be just as good.

The sequel takes young wizard Harry Potter, played by Daniel Radcliffe, and his friends, on more exciting adventures.

This time they will try to uncover a dark force that is terrorizing the school.

Director Chris Columbus and producer David Heyman are once again working on the Harry Potter film with some new help. David Barron (Possession, Hamlet) has joined the team as executive producer.

Award-winning production designer Stuart Craig, who was nominated for an Oscar for his work in Philosopher's Stone, returns to the production team.

The much-anticipated sequel will be distributed worldwide in November 2002.

In other movie news, Disney is working on a TV film about Prince William. Hollywood trade paper, The Daily Variety, said in an article that Disney intends to show how William has dealt with the death of his mother, Princess Diana.

The paper also said the film will be shot in Britain this spring and may be simply called, Prince William.

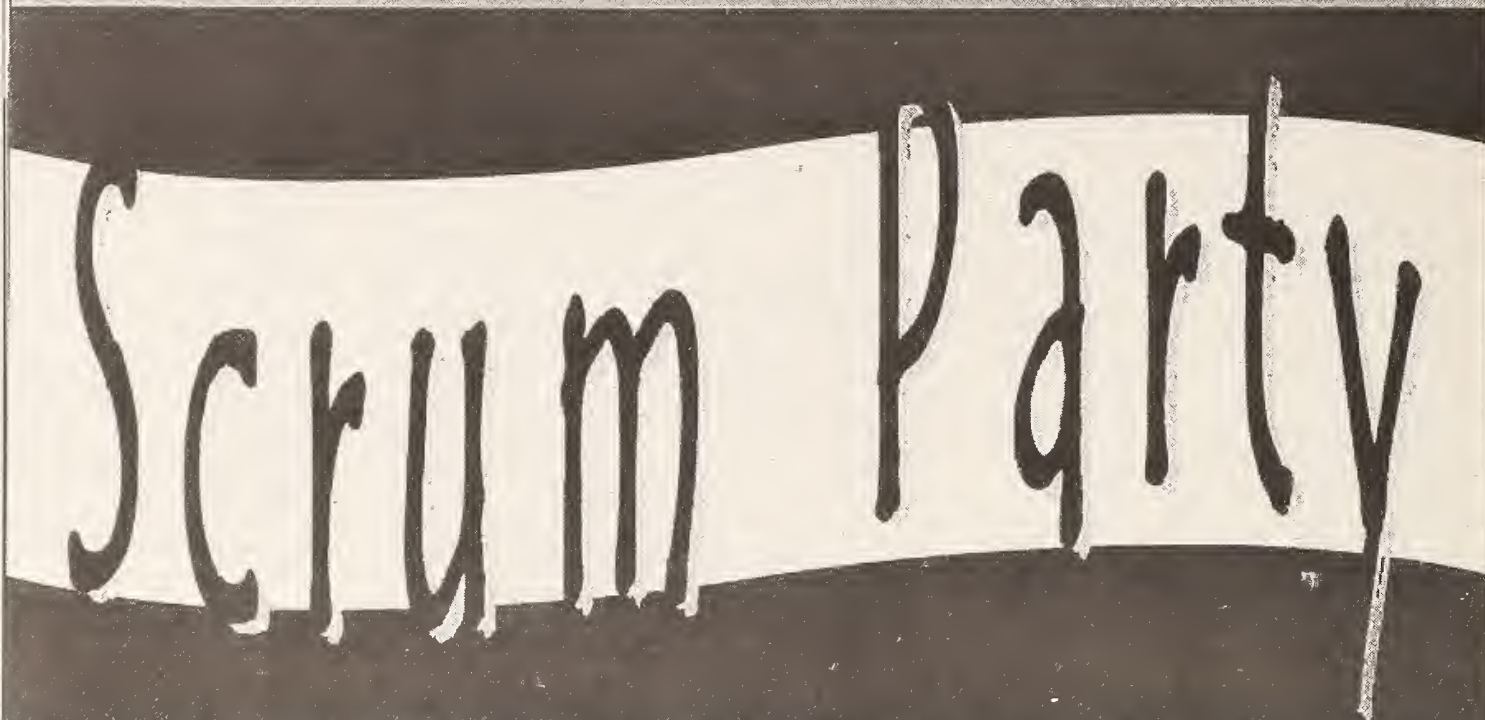
It should air by the fall on Disney's ABC network on the Wonderful World of Disney, Sunday showcase.

Beautiful Barbie will let down her hair in her next animated role. She made a deal for another movie about her life.

This will be the second movie for the fashion doll, which will again go straight to video.

In this adventure Barbie will play fairytale character Rapunzel in the family-oriented flick. Appropriately it will be called Barbie as Rapunzel and is set for release in October.

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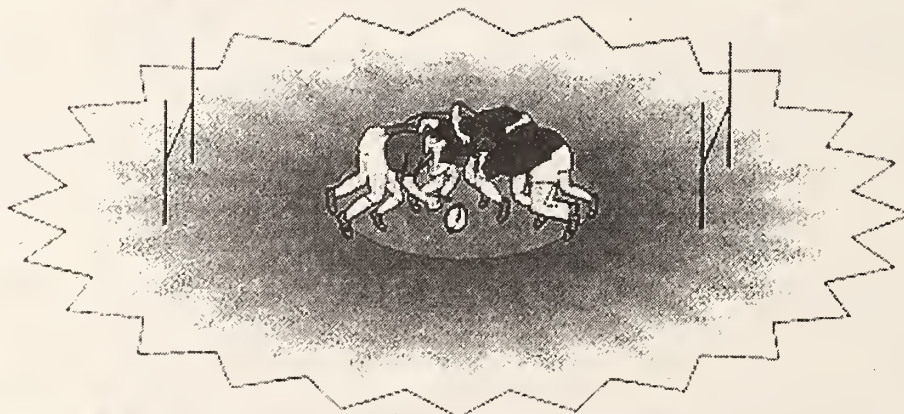


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# Soccer game turns into rugby match

By Jody Andruszkiewicz

It should have never ended like it did.

But the Conestoga Condors men's indoor soccer team was left standing empty-handed March 22 after getting mugged in what turned out to be their final game of the season.

In losing 3-1 to the Royal Military College at the 2002 men's indoor soccer championships in Scarborough, the Condors not only lost the game, but also the chance of advancing to the medal round.

It was a brutal game as the referee decided to put his whistle away and let the players play and roughhouse.

And roughhouse they did as Conestoga's Bojan Djovovic got elbowed in the stomach in plain sight of the referee but he refused to call anything. The game was so out of control that frustration set in resulting in Conestoga's Jamie Scott bodychecking an RMC player from behind into the boards, sending the man down to the ground with an agonizing scream of pain.

That incident alone almost precipitated a full-out brawl between the benches. It was the defining moment of a game out of control from the opening whistle.

Both coaches screamed at the referee, but for different reasons. Conestoga head coach Geoff Johnstone lashed out at the official saying that if the ref had called the cheap play through the game that ugly incident would have never happened. The RMC coach was fuming about his hurt player.

"I feel like I got mugged by a referee," a dejected Johnstone said after the game. He added that players like Scott and Rob Dietz seemed to be the target of RMC's play.

While Johnstone did not condone Scott's hit on the RMC player, he said he understood the frustration his player felt.

However, had the referee decided to call the game properly, the Condors wouldn't have any reason to feel mugged and Scott's brutal hit would have never occurred.

Djovovic scored one of his seven goals in the tournament early in the first half to make it 1-0 for Conestoga. That's when RMC started the overly physical play on the Conestoga players.

Around the eight-minute mark, RMC tied it up. This was shortly after the elbow on Djovovic. At 13 minutes into the first half, RMC scored the eventual game-winning goal to go up 2-1. Later, RMC scored to make it 3-1 and the Condors were out of it.

Even though there was no scoring in the second half, the Condors never really got a chance to make anything happen as they were literally being pushed around by their opponents. It was like watching a rugby game on an indoor soccer pitch.

When it came to actual soccer play, Conestoga dominated their opponents with crisp and clean passing. However, against trained pass-kickers like RMC — after all RMC is a military academy in Canada — Conestoga had no chance of beating them in what turned out to be a rugby match.

Too often Conestoga would take a shot on net and not follow it up because the RMC players were doing everything within and outside of the rules they could to keep Conestoga players away. And nothing was being called.

Those roadblocks forced Conestoga off their game.

"We like our defenders to pinch," said Johnstone. "Instead of squashing them into their end, we backed off a lot."

While they were pushed around by a group of thugs, the Conestoga players did look a little worn out from their prior game against Humber.

Johnstone said his team left a lot of themselves in the 2-2 tie against Canada's best outdoor team.

"We got too psyched up for taking on the national outdoor champions."

Or maybe Conestoga should have



Conestoga's Bojan Djovovic tries to break through the defence in a 3-1 Condor loss against RMC on March 22.

(Photo by Jody Andruszkiewicz)

saved some of its scoring from its first game for the third game. The

Condors romped 7-1 against Sir Sandford Fleming.

Regardless of the stellar results of the prior two games, advancing to the medal round depended on their performance against RMC.

That was where Conestoga's own version of March Madness was stopped and the Condors got the distinct displeasure of going home.

As the players were leaving the Scarborough soccer centre, Johnstone thanked every one of them for putting so much effort into the season.

For some players, it was their last game in a Condors uniform. For others, there was already talk of next year.

For everyone involved, it was the long trek home pondering what might have been.

And after getting mugged like that, it was a long trek home thinking about a medal that should have been.

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# AL West a battle to the finish

This is the final article in a series of six, outlining Major League Baseball's six divisions and how each team looks heading into the 2002 season. The regular season began March 31.

It has been a long time since the American League West produced such even competition.

Each of the four teams — the Seattle Mariners, Oakland Athletics, Texas Rangers and Anaheim Angels — has a legitimate chance to win the division, if not the World Series.

The Mariners came out of nowhere last season to surprise everyone with their stellar record of 116-46 — which tied a league record for wins unmatched since 1906.

This year they must face the pressure of trying to repeat their 2001 success in the regular season and improve in the playoffs. Don't expect a lot of improvements — the Mariners made only minor changes in the off-season and lost pitcher Aaron Sele and his 15 wins.

The Oakland Athletics lost their clubhouse leader and one of the best players ever to don an A's uniform in Jason Giambi.

They traded for super-prospect Carlos Pena to replace him but it cost them three of their top young players in return. Luckily their young, awe-inspiring starting rotation of Tim Hudson, Mark Mulder, Barry Zito and Cory Lidle all return.

The Texas Rangers made a big splash when they signed Alex Rodriguez before last season for \$250 million and continued their big-spending ways this off-season.

They added Juan Gonzalez and Carl Everett to give them, quite



Marc Hulet

likely, the most potent offence in the majors. But that said they still have pitching problems despite throwing millions of dollars at pitchers Chan Ho Park, Dave Burba and

Todd Van Poppel.

The Anaheim Angels made only minor changes but they have a solid young core of players just beginning to realize their potential.

They also have veterans Tim Salmon, Troy Percival and Kevin Appier to guide them. The Mariners have a solid rotation despite losing Sele.

Jamie Moyer, at age 38, was written off before last year — critics said he was almost finished. Moyer responded by soft tossing himself to 20 wins — the most in his 15-year career.

Young pitcher Freddy Garcia established himself as a potential ace with 18 wins and a 3.05 ERA in 2001. Paul Abbott also surprised baseball experts.

Previously considered a number 4 or 5 starter, Abbott went 17-4, but he did have a 4.25 ERA, which belies his record.

Impressive second-year pitcher Joel Piniero and James Baldwin round out the starting staff.

Kazuhiro Sasaki has been stellar in his two seasons since coming over from Japan. As the Mariners closer, he recorded 45 saves last season although seemed to tire a bit in the second half.

Jeff Nelson, 4-3 with a 2.76 ERA, and Arthur Rhodes, 8-0 with a 1.72 ERA, give Seattle two

of the best late-inning relievers in baseball.

The Mariners' lineup is solidly built with veterans but, with the exception of Ichiro, they don't have any All Star hitters.

Edgar Martinez could be headed to the Hall of Fame as the best designated hitter ever but he is 39 and his production is headed down, despite hitting .306 and driving in 116 RBIs.

John Olerud is another solid veteran but he is also levelling off. He drove in 95 runs last season with 21 homeruns — two totals too low for a quality first baseman.

Ichiro burst onto the scene last season coming over from Japan to join Sasaki. He batted .350 with 242 hits and stole 56 bases. Amazing numbers since he was considered a rookie by MLB standards but he played nine professional seasons in Japan and just turned 28.

His only weakness appears to be his low walk totals — an important stat for leadoff men.

The Mariners improved their bench in the off-season by bringing in Alex Arias, Desi Relaford and Ben Davis.

The Athletics' pitching will make or break their season.

Hudson has pitched better in the majors than he did in the minors. Hudson went 18-9 in his third season with a 3.37 ERA, after struggling a bit early on. His first two seasons saw him go 32-8.

Mulder struggled in his first season but rebounded last season to tie with Randy Johnson for the most wins by a left-hander in 2001. Mulder's overall record was 21-8 and he pitched more than 200 innings.

Zito rounded out the young trio

with a 17-8 record after he too struggled early on — winning the majority of his games in the second half.

Lidle, a surprising 13-6, and Erik Hiljus, 5-0, round out the starters.

Billy Koch was brought over from the Blue Jays to replace inconsistent closer Jason Isringhausen.

The A's basically gave the Jays nothing for him — an aging prospect — so they have nothing to lose even though Koch was inconsistent in 2001 too. He saved 36 games but had an alarming 4.80 ERA and often blew one-run leads.

**Ichiro burst onto the scene last season coming over from Japan to join Sasaki. He batted .350 with 242 hits and stole 56 bases.**

Jim Mecir, Jeff Tam and Mike Magnante give Oakland a solid bullpen with lots of depth.

Pena has a huge task on his shoulders in replacing Giambi at first base but his numbers suggest he is up to the job.

In limited time, after being called up from the minors, Pena hit .258 but with three homeruns and 12 RBIs in only 62 at bats.

Miguel Tejada, 31 homeruns, Eric Chavez, 32 homeruns, and Jermaine Dye, 26 homeruns despite injuries, give the A's a potent offence. Rookies Eric Byrnes and Esteban German could impact the A's early if they are impressive in spring training.

Byrnes has great speed and has shown some impressive power.

German is a speed demon and he likes to walk — which could solve the A's lead off problems.

Texas' lineup will intimidate every pitcher they face. They could set major league records this season.

But their pitching is still laughable despite signing Park. Park was 15-11 with a 3.50 ERA for the Dodgers last season. Good, but not amazing — especially considering Dodger stadium is a big park and he struggled on the road.

Doug Davis was OK after a bad start, finishing with an 11-10 record with a 4.45 ERA.

Kenny Rogers and Dave Burba both figure into the rotation but they had ERAs over 6.00.

Valdes was signed to help but he was 9-13 in 2001 and can't pitch a lot of innings.

Van Poppel, Jay Powell and John Rocker were all brought in to improve the bullpen but all three are overpaid and overrated.

Canadian Jeff Zimmerman

appears to be the closer after saving 28 games last season.

Gonzalez's addition to the lineup brings another 140 potential RBIs to the table.

Everett has struggled the past few seasons with attitude problems but at his best he can hit 30 homeruns and drive in 100 RBIs.

Rafael Palmeiro is aging but still hit 47 homeruns and drove in 123 RBIs.

Rodriguez showed why he was given the large contract by hitting .318 with 201 hits, 52 homeruns and 135 RBIs.

The only question that remains about the lineup is how well all those egos will mesh together.

Also the Rangers' lineup lacks in speed.

The Angels have the best rotation one to five in the west.

Sele and Appier are two solid veteran pitchers who won a combined 26 games last season and should help the other three young, but promising, pitchers.

Ramon Ortiz was 13-11 last season and holds the most promise of the young pitchers but it was discovered in the off-season that he was actually 29-years-old — not 26 as previously thought.

Jarrod Washburn's 3.77 ERA was good but he only won 11 games and needs to increase his number of innings pitched.

Scott Schoeneweis struggled the most of the three but still managed to win 10 games and he is left-handed — their skills tend to take a little longer to develop.

Troy Percival anchors a solid rotation, along with Al Levine, Ben Weber and Dennis Cook.

Most of the Angels' hitters had off-seasons in 2001, with the exception of Garret Anderson.

Anderson hit 28 homeruns and drove in 123 RBIs and should reach similar numbers this season.

Brad Fullmer was brought in to be the designated hitter and backup first base.


He hit 18 homeruns and drove in 83 runs last season for the Jays but struggled against lefthanders.

Troy Glaus has some of the best power in the American League but he struggled to make contact in 2001 with a .250 average but he did crank 41 homeruns.

Shortstop David Eckstein was a pleasant surprise, hitting .285 with 29 stolen bases and he played solid defence. His lack of arm strength will eventually necessitate a move to second base however.

The race for the American League West title will be a tight one in 2002 — too tight to predict a winner at this time.


Whoever manages to avoid injuries and play to their potential will likely come out on top.



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